

THE CUMORAH FOUNDATION

Resources on Church Growth and Missionary Work for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

June 2023

WELCOME!

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide monthly updates on the growth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and missionary news stories and present a synopsis of recently completed educational resources and research. We are a privately funded initiative that provides resources online without cost. The Cumorah Foundation is not authorized or approved by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints or any other group.

CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENTS

New Stakes

(provided with chronological ranking and date of creation)

- 22. Mazatenango Guatemala Las Flores June 11th, 2023
- 23. Saratoga Springs Utah Quailhill June 11th, 2023
- 24. Saratoga Springs Utah Riverside June 11th, 2023

New Districts

- 1. Chiquimula Guatemala South March 26th, 2023
- 3. Dzodze Ghana June 18th, 2023
- 4. Mwanza Tanzania June 18th, 2023

Discontinued Stakes and Districts

London England Wandsworth Stake
 Maidstone England Stake

Locations Recently Reached by the Church

(city population rank, most recent population estimate) precise population data from www.citypopulation.de

- Tshikapa, DR Congo (N/A, ~732,000)
- Pucusana, Peru (N/A, 15,125)
- San Bartolo, Peru (N/A, 7,817)
- Green Island, Philippines (N/A, ~375)
- Segbwema, Sierra Leone (N/A, ~16,500)
- Adetikope, Togo (N/A, N/A)

Locations Recently Closed by the Church

Cities where the only ward or branch was closed; some of these cities may continue to have a dependent unit and/or missionaries assigned.

(city population rank, most recent population estimate)

data from www.citypopulation.de

None Reported in June 2023

Two More Stakes Discontinued in England

Two more stakes were discontinued in England during June, bringing the total number of stakes discontinued in England to three for 2023 and four for the entire history of the Church in the two country. The stakes discontinued in June were the London England Wandsworth Stake and the Maidstone England of which Stake—both organized in 1978. One ward in the Maidstone England Stake (Selsdon) was reassigned to the Crawley England Stake, whereas the remainder of the wards in the former Maidstone England Stake



were reassigned to the Canterbury England Stake (which now has 11 wards). However, three of the wards in the former London England Wandsworth Stake were discontinued. This marks the first time the Church in Europe has ever gone through a significant redistricting of stakes on this scale. The Church in the United Kingdom has experienced a steady decline in the number of congregations for decades, and these changes are unsurprising given this trajectory and efforts to create stakes with larger numbers of congregations with more active members than historical averages.

Second Stake Reestablished in Mazatenango, Guatemala



The Church created the Mazatenango Guatemala Las Flores Stake in June, essentially reinstating the previously discontinued Mazatenango Guatemala East Stake which operated from 1998 to 2008 (and was the second stake ever to be discontinued in Guatemala). Only а few congregations have been

organized in the Mazatenango area in the past decade, although some branches have appeared to become wards during this time. The creation of the new stake is significant as it demonstrates that the Church is able to reverse trends in decline or stagnant even in locations that have had a long-term church presence. However, it is important to note that such examples are uncommon, although there have been increasing instances of stakes and congregations being reinstated or being created after consolidations in recent years, particularly in Latin America.

Branch Created on Tiny Island in the Philippines

The Church recently organized the Green Island Branch on the extremely small island of Green Island off the coast of Palawan in Philippines. With population of less than 400, Green Island is the least populated island in Philippines to ever have a branch organized. The Church in the Philippines has had extremely few congregations on smaller islands, even in locations with sizable populations. example, there remain many islands in the Philippines with tens of thousands of inhabitants



without a ward or branch, such as Romblon and Dinagat. The new Green Island Branch pertains to the Puerto Princesa Philippines Stake.

Expansion of the Church into Communities South of Lima, Peru

Two new branches were recently created in the communities of Pucusana and San Bartolo which are located south of the Lima metropolitan area. This marks the first time that branches have been organized in the many small cities and towns clustered along the coast

between Lima and the city of Mala which is located approximately 40 miles south of Lima. The Church in Peru has experienced slow expansion into previously unreached cities and towns for many years, although there was a steady creation of new wards in the largest cities in the country until the COVID-19 pandemic.



Fourth District Created in Tanzania

Another new district was Tanzania, created in third marking the new district created in the country within the past 12 months. The Mwanza Tanzania District created from three mission branches located in the Mwanza area. The Church organized its first branch in Mwanza in 2011, but a second branch in the city



was not created until 2021. The creation of the Tanzania Dar Es Salaam Mission has served as a major catalyst for rapid growth in Tanzania during the past several years, taking the Church from decades of slow membership growth and nearly stagnant congregational growth to the proliferation of congregations and the opening of additional cities to the Church such as Moshi and Dodoma. Use of Swahili in church services and proselytism has also been a major contributor to recent growth in Tanzania.